PATENT APPLICATION

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116 **EXPEDITED PROCEDURE TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 1731**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yasunao MTURA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1731

Application No.: 10/045,083

Examiner:

J. HOFFMANN

Filed: January 15, 2002

Docket No.:

111674

METHOD OF FABRICATING HONEYCOMB BODY AND DRYING SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the June 21, 2006, Office Action, the shortened statutory period for reply being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, please consider the following remarks.

The Examiner rejects claims 2-4 and 16under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent "No. 5,952,079 to Andou et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,776,998 to Davidson et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,622,057 to Chyung et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,569,661 to Kramer, and U.S. Patent No. 4,439,929 to Kitagawa et al., and optionally in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,731,036 to Hallier et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,189,273 to Inukai et al. The Examiner also rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Andou in view of Davidson, Chyung, Kramer and Kitagawa, optionally in view of Hallier and Inukai, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,187,574 to